

Marine Region Program Descriptions and Key Measurable (Planned) Objectives

Program: Fisheries Management - State/Federal Managed Species

This program supports management activities affecting California and California fishermen under federal and state jurisdiction through the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). Staff collects, analyzes and reports stock assessment and other fishery-related data necessary to manage California's fisheries resources on a sustainable basis, taking into account associated resources and the habitats upon which they depend. The mixed international and national jurisdiction of these fisheries dictates the Department work closely with other Pacific states and federal agencies to insure effective management. Staff also assists in regulation development for use in the Fish and Game Commission's (Commission) regulatory process.

Project: Coastal Pelagic Species / Highly Migratory Species Management

This project collects, analyzes and reports stock assessment data necessary to manage California's Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) and Highly Migratory Species (HMS). Some project staff participate on the PFMC's CPS and HMS multi-agency management teams.

The primary CPS species include two federally managed species, Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel; and one State managed species, market squid. In order to coordinate management of these species the Department must maintain and enhance strong working relationships with researchers and other agencies working on CPS including National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries and PFMC. Under State management, this program implements the Market Squid Fishery Management Plan (MSFMP) which collects fisheries dependent data to assess fishery impacts to the market squid resource and participates in research (including industry sponsored efforts) to increase our understanding of squid biology.

The primary HMS species include the tunas, swordfish and sharks. The project provides information, analyses, and recommendations necessary to manage California's HMS fisheries. The project also provides technical assistance to the PFMC, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), other federal and state agencies, tribal governments, and constituents on Pacific Coast HMS stocks.

Budgeted Resources Dedicated to the Project: This project includes 11 positions and a Personal Services budget of \$730,229.

Key Measurable (Planned) Objectives for FY 2006-07: For CPS, the primary objective in FY 2006-07 will be to complete a formal review of the market squid logbook program which was initiated in 1999 in addition to collecting data and providing these data for stock assessment activities.

- Technical report of the analysis of market squid fishery logbook data from 1999 to 2006, including compliance/fishery complexities.
- White paper on life history changes in the California market squid population: correlations with fishery and environmental factors from 1948 to 2006.
- White paper on the description of the CPS Fishery since the resurgence of sardines.
- Assist in preparation of sardine and mackerel stock assessments and Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Reports to the PFMC.
- Prepare a work plan for fisheries independent squid research that identifies both short term and long term research priorities to be conducted by the Department as well as collaboratively with the squid industry.
- Hire and train an Associate Biologist and a Biologist. The Associate Biologist will assist in the preparation of the fisheries independent squid research work plan. The Biologist will assist in the preparation of the description of the CPS Fishery since the resurgence of sardines. The Associate Biologist and Biologist will also assist in the compilation of the documentation on the HMS fisheries in California including logbook information, changes in legislation and regulations, and assessment methods.

The primary objective of HMS workload for FY 2006-07 is directly related to compliance of state and federal fisheries legislation and implementation of the federal HMS FMP.

- Assist in the preparation of the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report for HMS including a description for California's commercial and recreation fisheries.
- Prepare a review of the recreational daily bag limits for albacore and bluefin tunas. Contribute in development of alternatives for entire scope of routine measures including official commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV) identification and boundary change to sea turtle conservation area off the state of Oregon.
- Compile all current documentation on the HMS fisheries in California including logbook information, changes in legislation and regulations, and assessment methods.

Key Measurable (Planned) Objectives for FY 2007-08:

- Assist in preparation of sardine and mackerel stock assessments and Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Reports to the PFMC.

- Implement fisheries independent squid research priorities to be conducted by the Department as well as collaboratively with the squid industry. This may include a large-scale ichthyoplankton survey designed to collect and analyze squid para-larvae distribution and abundance and evaluate whether it can be used as a management tool to monitor squid resource abundance.
- Assist in the preparation of the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report for HMS including a description for California's commercial and recreation fisheries.
- Complete the compilation of all current documentation on the HMS fisheries in California including logbook information, changes in legislation and regulations, and assessment methods.
- Newly hired Biologists (1 Associate Biologist, 1 Biologist) will have completed initial training requirements in order to fulfill their job duties as well as participate in fisheries independent squid research. Products will also include completed documentation on the HMS fisheries and the development of the CPS/HMS program work plan for FY 2007-08.